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Serial No. TBD (Continuing Pat. App. Group Art Unit: 2664
of SN 09/369,034)

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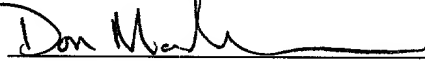
Examiner: Ngo, R

Title: Data Communication Device

EXPRESS MAIL NUMBER: EL663156147US

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Don Madhavan

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

* * *

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

ATTN: BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Sir:

Applicant hereby respectfully submits the following Preliminary Amendment to the accompanying 37 CFR 1.53(b) application and related remarks. The consideration of this amendment and remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims:

Please delete claims 6 and 14.

Please add the following claims:

- 1 18. An interface for transferring data from a real-time data transfer system to a signal
- 2 processing unit comprising:

3 a circular buffer having an input configured to receive data samples from the real-
4 time data transfer system and to send data samples received from the real-time data
5 transfer system to the signal processing unit when the signal processing unit accepts a
6 transfer, wherein the data is stored and transferred according to a first-in, first-out
7 operational protocol; and

8 a first counter circuit communicating with the signal processing unit and the data
9 transfer system and configured to increment for each data sample sent to the circular
10 buffer from the data transfer system and decrement for each data sample sent to the signal
11 processing unit from the circular buffer, where the counter circuit is configured to count
12 beyond the physical range of the buffer to account for data samples transferred through
13 the circular buffer.

1 19. An interface according to Claim 18, wherein the counter circuit has a
2 programmable threshold and is configured to generate an interrupt to the signal
3 processing unit when the counter passes the threshold.

1 20. An interface according to Claim 19, wherein the counter is configured to send a
2 subsequent interrupt only after a prior interrupt is acknowledged by the signal processing
3 unit.

1 21. An interface according to Claim 18, wherein the signal processing unit polls the
2 counter to determine the availability of data samples.

1 22. An interface according to Claim 18, wherein the signal processing unit polls the
2 counter periodically to determine the availability of data samples.

1 23. An interface according to Claim 18 further comprising:
2 a second circular buffer having an input and an output configured to receive data
3 samples from the signal processing unit and to send data samples to the real-time data
4 transfer system when the data is available; and

5 a second counter circuit communicating with the second circular buffer and
6 configured to increment each time a data sample is received by the second circular buffer
7 from the signal processing unit and decrement each time a data sample is sent from the
8 second circular buffer to the data transfer system, where the counter is configured to
9 count beyond the physical range of the buffer.

Remarks

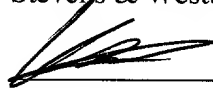
Allowance of the above new claims are respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully submits that the newly added claims, as well as the current pending claims are in condition allowance, and, accordingly, Applicant requests such allowance.

If there should be any impediment to allowance of the present claims, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone conference with David R. Stevens at (408) 288-7588.

August 9, 2001

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Sincerely,
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David R. Stevens
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